



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	<i>Application No.</i>	10/050,102
	<i>Filing Date</i>	18 January 2002
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Norman G. ANDERSON
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1634
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	F. Lu
	<i>Attorney Docket No.</i>	2316-150
<i>Title of the Invention:</i> DETECTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF MICROORGANISMS		

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED
JAN 16 2003
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 11, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel non-elected claims 1 through 51 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amend claims 52 and 53 as follows.

52. (Amended) A method for concentrating particles from a sample, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

(a) adding a sample containing particles to a centrifuge tube, and

(b) centrifuging said sample in said tube to concentrate said particles,

said centrifuge tube comprising an upper region, a middle region and a lower region wherein an inner diameter of said upper region is larger than an inner diameter of said lower region, wherein said upper region is separated from said lower region by said middle region having 1) a decreasing diameter from said upper region toward said